

Tax Reform Group Hunting Revenue, Not Relief

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
SACRAMENTO — Little realization of the magnitude of the problem facing the Advisory Commission on Tax Reform, appointed some time ago by Governor Ronald Reagan, has filtered through the public in general.

The Commission is headed by Houston I. Flournoy, state controller, probably one of the most informed and knowledgeable tax authorities in California.

Flournoy's commission

has held a number of meetings, and hearings, but despite the fact a report is due by Jan. 1, it has not as yet resolved the mass of tax information and recommendations obtained through these hearings into any form of final recommendation, which will serve as the "package" it is expected to submit to the 1969 legislature.

The problem, according to the controller, is primarily the equalization of the tax burden as it applies to cities, counties, and the state itself.

It definitely is not, he explained, concerned with "tax relief," a subject of which much has been heard during the current year, neither is it a matter of finding ways and means of reducing the over-all amount of income derived from the state and local governments through the various methods of taxation these entities apply.

The controller points out that the job of the commission is to make recommendations which will assure the continuation of a supply of tax revenue to guarantee the

functioning of government, even though the source may be somewhat different than it is at the present time.

Asked whether the passage of proposition 1A with its provisions of property tax relief, would help or hamper the commission in its work, Flournoy said this new constitutional amendment is more on the order of a stepping stone to tax reform.

The property tax, he pointed out, is only one source of revenue, and even though it is a primary source for cities and counties, it

cannot be considered singly in the over-all studies.

There is the strong possibility that in the effort to achieve more equality in taxation, that the benefits and exemptions accruing to charities, non-profit organizations, and their donors under the present laws, may come in for a re-shuffling.

The commission has recommendations before it which point out the fact that there has been re-valuation in recent times of these tax exemptions, and that the revenue losses there from "are

substantial and growing steadily."

The question is raised as to whether public tax support through exemptions, for example, of social and country clubs, should take precedence over support of school activities. Or whether tax support of lodges and veteran organizations should take precedence over the need for more medical schools in a time of projected shortages of doctors?

Further, the commission is considering a recommendation

that statutory and constitutional changes be initiated that would remove all private non-profit property tax exemptions over a ten-year period.

These are only a few of the many matters being considered by the commission. It seems reasonably obvious that no matter what recommendations are made finally to the legislature, that a veritable storm will be blown up as a result, for the simple reason that no tax shift can be made without someone getting hurt.

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1968

No Place for Amateurs

The federal government has an absolutely miserable history of managing its affairs. It is unable to institute any kind of cost control in its operations, any sort of modernization in most of its procedures, and many of its basic services such as the postal service have come close to collapse. With such demonstrated management incapacity, it is inconceivable that anyone would suggest that the government should take over responsibility for more of the management of the country's affairs. Yet, this is happening and in the critical field of medicine.

Public officials in departments of government in criticizing and recommending changes in the U.S. medical system presume to know much more about the delivery of medical care than those who have spent their lives in medical training and in the practice of the medical arts. That this

seems unreasonable is a massive understatement.

When answers are sought, it should be recognized that the medical profession itself is more greatly concerned than anybody else in finding new ways to assure the availability of the best in medical care for all who need it regardless of their financial ability to pay. It is moving to expand its facilities and its personnel and to create new ways to insure or prepay major medical costs for the individual. The high quality health care characteristic of U.S. medicine today, which many now want to regiment, divide up and give away, was developed in an atmosphere of individual freedom and voluntarism. The present medical system should not be dismantled by amateurs, and it should be remembered that answers can be found by consulting those who know most about the subject.

The Shame at SF State

Closing down of San Francisco State College until "such time as it can be re-opened on a more rational basis" marks something more than a cessation of activities in one of California's oldest and most respected educational institutions.

The closing, in fact, signifies submission of the state to the forces of anarchy, and tacit admission that neither local nor state law enforcement agencies are able to cope with a handful of gun-toting Black Panthers whose activities appear to be the fostering of revolution rather than the promotion and welfare of higher education.

It seems almost unbelievable that the college administration, if unable to maintain order itself, would not call in the proper law enforcement officials to assure continued operation of an institution costing the taxpayers of California nearly \$20 million a year for the education of 13,500 equivalent full-time students.

In effect, the college administration has shaken the confidence, not only of the students who are attending to secure an education, but also the general public, in the ability of the state to continue its multi-million dollar higher educational system on normal procedures. In other words, can a student enroll in the future with assurance of being able to complete his studies, obtain his degree, and make himself ready for the duties and obligations of a citizen?

Such confidence hardly can be expected after the closing down of one institution until it can be re-opened on a "more rational" basis.

California has plenty of law on its statute books to keep the campus operating. It has plenty of police, both state and local, to maintain order on the campus. And there always is the ultimate action of calling in the national guard if things get too rough for the local police.

Thus, it would appear the college administration is unwilling, rather than unable to meet the problem head on, and assure continuation of its educational facilities on behalf of the vast majority of students who are attending the college with serious motives in mind.

The closure appears to have stemmed from the action of state college chancellor Glenn Dumke in ordering the dismissal of a Black Panther instructor, who allegedly advocated gun-toting on the campus. As state college chancellor, Dumke's authority in such matters should prevail without question. Academic senates, student unions, and other organizations which want to run the state colleges, may have a place in advisory capacities, but when their activities shut down an entire college, it is apparent the voice of authority has been removed from the source the laws of the state intend that voice to be lodged.—HCM.

FROM THE MAILBOX

New Councilman Applauds The Friday Press-Herald

Editor, Press-Herald: I want to congratulate you on the orderly and professional change-over of the Press-Herald's publication dates. I personally think the change from Sunday to Friday will be of direct benefit to the entire community.

As a newly elected Councilman for the City of Torrance, I see this change as a positive move for the community. It emphasizes the increasingly important role your paper plays in the South Bay area.

I have heard many favorable comments made about the publication date change

from various members of the community. Merchants and shoppers have spoken of the advantage of having advertisements at the beginning of the weekend.

Again congratulations on your foresight.

DR. DONALD E. WILSON
Councilman

I don't like to tell other people how to spend their money, but I will. Athens doesn't need the terminal Airport passengers now drive into town along a sparkling blue sea and miss garbage dumps, used car lots, and decaying slums so popular elsewhere.

But the city could use a simple drinking fountain at the Acropolis. So that tourists will leave that wonderful hilltop full of the glory of Greece and not panting for a glass of water. Mr. Onassis, first things first. Even if they are inexpensive.

ROYCE BRIER

Head Cold Gains Status As Space Flight Factor

It is perhaps vaguely ironical, and certainly a surprise, that the primary menace of a round trip to the moon and more distant space exploration, could be, no machine failure, but the common cold.

Few pay much attention to a cold, beyond lamenting it to family and friends, though hypochondriacs may take to their beds. Everybody has colds, so everybody understands the problem, and its infectious and baffling nature. If you come down while starting on a vacation to the mountains, it becomes somewhat important.

If you come down while starting on a lunar or Martian vacation, it may be of crucial importance.

Most doctors agree, without knowing very much about the common cold, that it is the foremost disease afflicting the human race. It may be a mild nuisance, excepting rare instances, to the individual, but it seriously diminishes the work capacity of all mankind.

Space exploration is work, the most exacting work ever devised. You can't work well if your ears are buzzing with

antihistamines. You are playing with fire if you try to work, mentally or physically, with even one degree of temperature.

Doubtless the astronauts, Schirra, Cunningham and Eisele, in orbit in the preliminary Apollo trials, were more concerned about the brief failure of their AC

electrical system than about their colds.

The electrical failure could bring them to earth in a hurry, with unforeseen risk and improvisation, but colds are usually self-limiting, and would go away, God willing.

We are perpetually fooling ourselves like this. Here on solid earth our self-deception in moderate forms seldom has bad results. Few colds, for instance, run into incapacitating pneumonia. But if you're hopping about the lunar surface in a space suit, the problem is in another dimension.

The doctors attached to the Space agency didn't have much to say about Shir-

ra's cold, which his companions promptly caught. They couldn't even prescribe two aspirins, and get to bed.

Certainly candidates for orbital flight are given exhaustive tests over months. They must have sound hearts and circulation, digestive and respiratory systems. One flaw and they're disqualified. But nobody can foresee a cold, how or why or when the virus takes hold.

The doctors might have said the environment inside the space vehicle is conducive to viral invasions. Maybe, and maybe not. It's plausible, but that's only a layman's guess.

The problem of safely projecting a human being to a heavenly body has a thousand facets, both in the journey and the sojourn. Failure in any one of these facets may be fatal. Many facets have to do with the infinitely complex vehicle needed, the calculations during the journey, and with extra-terrestrial pressures and gravity. It is odd, when you meditate it, that an organism you can barely see in a 200,000-power electronic microscope, is as determinative as any machine or mental factor.

But don't ask the doctors about it. They are the first to say they don't know the answer.

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In Case You Had Any Doubt—



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HERB CAEN SAYS:

Bits of Gossip From the North

A mess of dottage: Mary Paulsen, a blind secty. from the Sweegman School, is now working for Melvin Belli — and, says her teacher proudly, "Sightless transcribers are in great demand because their typing is perfect and they do not get distracted." Apparently he has never met Mr. Belli . . . Pierre Cardin, goaded unmercifully by Dave Falk, has designed an evening clock made from a piece of the old Opera House gold curtain; it'll be auctioned at Butterfield's Dec. 7 for the Merola Fund, along with other dandy items made from the curtain . . . Singer Janis Joplin, having quit Big Brother and the Holding Company, will make her first appearance with her new group at Winterland on New Year's Eve — if she and Bill Graham can ever get together on price. Bill: "At the moment, we're only about a million dollars apart."

Our native wits: Psychotherapist Sally Dewees is heard from: "Psychoanalysis is like martinis. One hour is too much and 10 years are not enough" . . . Edna Shay claims Jerry Rubin has been in so many UC demonstrations he walks with a Sather Gait . . . Finally, reassurances from Cleveland Amory: "Despite the rumors you may have heard, it's not true that Jackie met Onassis through a computer dating service."

Our own Laugh-Out: Mrs. J. G. Zabel: "Have you noticed that most of those who complain about long hair can no longer grow long hair?" . . . Keep Your City Clean. Eat a Pigeon . . . And did YOU notice that the complaints about that stag movie shown by mistake on a Palm Springs TV station were phoned in after the movie was over? Uh-huh and ah-ha . . . Jim Hanvey's bumper strip: "Keep Grandma Off the Streets — Legalize Bingo" . . . At the Nephente Gift Shop in Big Sur, reports Jim Pentony, a member of the beard-and-sandal set asked Owner Charlie Levitsky: "Do you stock the works of Hans Krishna Anderson?" . . . Ed McDevitt went to Honolulu on the Lurline, forgot his neckties when he debarked, and phoned the purser from his hotel: "Say, I was in Stateroom 5 and I wonder if you'd send my ties over to —." Purser, we can't deliver mai tais ashore."

Delemma: Charlie Barrett, co-owner of Latitude 38 in Sausalito, flew up to Bear Valley with his Japanese bartender, Joe Morita, to check on his restaurant there. Altitude 38 — and they shared a room with twin beds in the lodge. Each morning, the neat Morita would arise and promptly make his bed. So Charlie had to make his, too, "or the maids would think we're sleeping together. Imagine making my own bed in a hotel. It drove me outta my mind . . ."

Scoop du jour: Danny Schwartz, the Oakland-Palm Springs motomillionaire (he sold his Perma-Bilt Homes for molto millions), just laid out \$450,000 to buy Bandleader Peter Duchin's fine race horse "Mr. Right."

Quotesville: Following his retrospective at the Film Festival, Director John Huston said to Claude Jarman at the Mandarin: "The old film clips were fine, but why did you run that terrible scene with George Brent and Bette Davis?" Claude, rather blankly: "It was from a film called 'In This Our Life,' and you directed it." John, looking even blunter: "I DID? I don't remember that at all" (he betta off) . . . Huston's parting shot as he flew to Germany: "I'm playing the part of the Marquis de Sade's uncle in a movie, and I have to whip myself into shape" . . . By the way, the Festival was good for business, all right. While Edward G. Robinson was doing HIS retrospective Thurs., his wife was shopping \$70,000 worth in the galleries and art stores; the local artist she lavished the most on: Brian Wilson. Robinson on the endless re-runs of his old films on the late-late shows: "I've done more for birth control than the pill."

Fun at the service clubs: Piedmont's fetching Dorothy Atwood, named Single Parent of the Year (She has seven children) by Parents Without Partners (God Bless America), addressed the Vacaville Rotary Club recently. After her speech, the Rev. Henry MacFadden arose to say: "She inspired more of you men in half an hour than I can reach in a year of sermons." Voice from the rear: "Your pulpit's not built like hers . . .!"